

Energy • Intelligence • Imagination • Love

Third Sunday of Advent December 14, 2025 at 9:30 AM



Frank Wesley (1923-2002), Magnificat on Silk

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Davenport

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, a church where EVERYONE is welcome. On behalf of the entire First Pres family, we want you to know that we are so glad you're here. We are a proud congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), where We Choose WELCOME!

We welcome followers of Jesus who are solid in their faith, and we welcome questioning believers seeking deeper meaning in their life. We welcome those who come from different faith backgrounds, such as Methodists, Lutherans, and Catholics, and those with no faith background at all; for we are all one in Christ Jesus. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We hope you experience the warmth and friendliness of our congregation. It is a place that long-term members have described as their spiritual home for generations. It is also a place where people newer to our community of faith have found a safe and sacred space for themselves and their families.

Nursery care is available during the worship service for children (birth through kindergarten). The nursery is staffed by trained and background-checked caregivers from 8:15 AM to 11:30 AM. The nursery is on the third floor of the Christian Education (CE) building. Ask a worship host if you need assistance locating this space.

Kirkwood Choir is offered during the service, after the Children's Message. Kirkwood Choir provides music for worship throughout the program year.

MusikGarten, a program for parents/caregivers and young children (birth through kindergarten), is provided after the service in room #310 of the CE building. MusikGarten is our unique program that allows participation in a fun, energetic environment while instilling a love and understanding of music in young children. Check today's bulletin for schedule.

Sunday School classes for children, youth, and adults are offered after the service. Children and youth Sunday school is located on the third floor of the CE building. High School youth are encouraged to be helpers in the elementary classes. Adult Sunday school is in Von Maur Hall. Please ask a worship host if you need assistance locating these spaces.

AN LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE

COVENANT NETWORK

OF PRESBYTERIANS

Our Session (church council) has adopted a bold vision of creating safe and sacred space for all. We aren't perfect at it, but we are joyfully beginning to live into this new vision. We are an open and affirming congregation, and a proud member of the

Covenant Network of Presbyterians (covnetpres.org). The Session and members of First Pres extend a sincere welcome to persons of all races, nationalities, genders, and sexual orientations. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and communion, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.



We are a Matthew 25 church in the PC(USA). Matthew 25 congregations identify themselves as working toward one or more of three goals: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Land Acknowledgement: First Presbyterian Church gratefully acknowledges the Indigenous Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Indigenous communities who make Iowa and Illinois their home today. The communities we serve through our ministries occupy the traditional homelands of the people of the Kiikaapoi, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Peoria, Sauk, and Meskwaki nations. We honor these and numerous Indigenous tribes who first made the banks of the Mississippi River a center for arts and commerce.

Worshipers who are comfortably able are invited to stand in body or spirit.
 Bold indicates congregational response

Third Sunday of Advent Order of Worship

To help you get to know the people sitting in your pew/row, Please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbors.

As we begin worship, please silence your cell phones. Take a quiet moment to center yourself in the presence of God. We invite you to meditate silently on art, music, and Scripture.

Preparing for the Word

Prelude On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Arr. Aaron David Miller

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer

Introit Advent Message
The Sanctuary Choir

Martin How (1931-2022)

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle, the Candle of Joy

Greim, Tobey-Brown, Braun Families Liturgist: Ted Brown

Previously, we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the song of the prophets, and we lit the candle of Peace, listening for the harmonies of God's presence.

Today we light the candle of Joy. Joy is not always loud or flashy–sometimes it hums quietly beneath sorrow, sometimes it bursts forth in a shout of praise. But always, joy is a song God plants in the soul.

(Light the pink candle.)

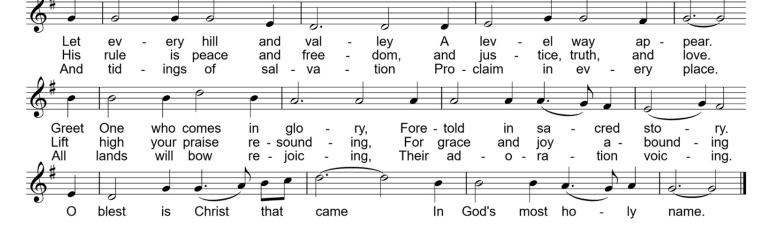
Let us pray. Like Mary, who sang of God's mercy before it came to pass, we rejoice in the promise of what God is doing, even now, even here. Come, Lord Jesus. Make our hearts glad and our voices strong. Teach us your song of joy. Amen.

† Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

(In a way that is comfortable for you, please share the Peace of Christ with those around you.)



Call to Confession

Please be seated.

Even in our joy, we confess that we have turned from the melody of God's love. We have forgotten the words of grace, lost the rhythm of compassion, and sung only of ourselves. Let us return to the One who gives us a new song, and confess together.

Prayer of Confession

Joyful God, we confess that we often live out of tune with your Spirit. We forget the joy that comes from your promises. We drown out your song with noise, worry, and complaint. We fail to echo your love in our words and deeds. Forgive us. Restore our joy. Let our lives become your music in the world—a new song of hope, peace, and love. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Even now, God is tuning the world toward joy.

Even now, Christ is making all things new.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, set free, and invited to sing again.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Listening for the Word

Anthem

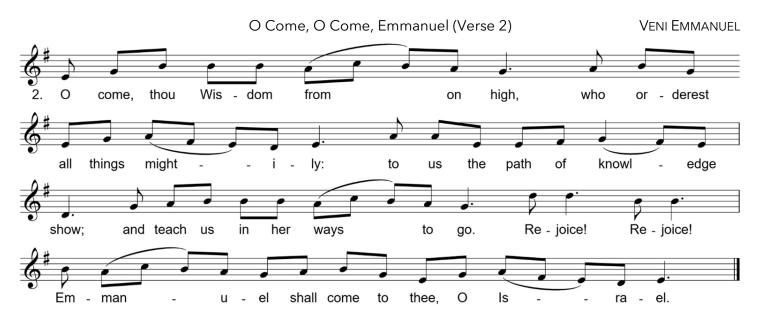
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel The Sanctuary Choir arr. Taylor Scott Davis (b. 1980)

O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransome captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. [Refrain]

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination



First Lesson Isaiah 61:1-4

61 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners,

- to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,
- to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
 to give them a garland instead of ashes,
 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
 the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
 They will be called oaks of righteousness,
 the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
- They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be^[a] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Sing a New Song: The Song of Mary" The Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer

Responding to the Word



Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God



To share your pledge or offering, you may place it in the offering plate as it is passed down the aisle. If it is more convenient for you, please visit the church website at www.fpcdavenport.org, and click on "Donate Now," or you may donate directly from your smartphone by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera. You may also mail your pledge or offering to the church office.

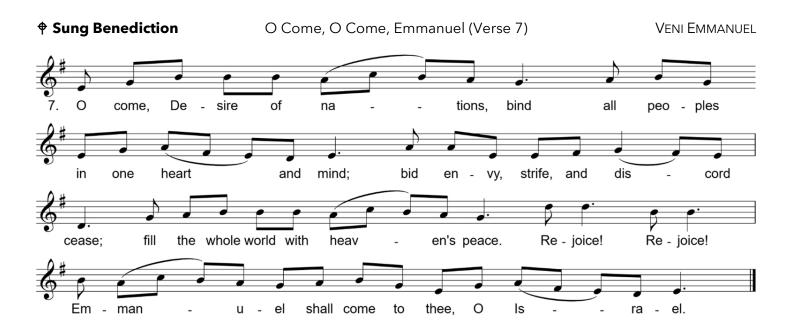
Offertory

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

Arr. Gerald Near (b. 1942)



† Charge



Postlude

Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

WORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Worship Hosts - Jeanne Sherwood (Lead Host), Marilyn Irwin

Sound/Video Technicians - Mitch Doremus, Jim Middleton

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Taylor Scott Davis, arr., "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (©2024 MorningStar Music Publishers)

Gerald Near, "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People" (©2000 Augsburg Fortress)

Aaron David Miller, "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" (©2000 Augsburg Fortress)

Gerald Near, "Finale on 'Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol" (©2006 Birnamwood Publications)

JOYS & CONCERNS

In Our Prayers: families and victims of gun violence; the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, all who groan under oppression, and those in need of God's healing grace; Harold Saunders, Alan Havercamp, Linda Bengfort, Brenda Boyd, Shawn Lambrecht (son of Cathy Lambrecht), Jim Woods, Carol Phoenix, Julie Pedigo (sister of Carol Phoenix), and Wayne Hean.

(Names will be listed in the list above for 30 days unless otherwise requested.)

Mission Partners: Humility Homes and Services; Churches United; Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities; and P.U.N.C.H.

Hospital Visits: The Pastors and Deacons make hospital visits when patients give permission.

In-Touch Information: For anyone who is homebound and would enjoy contact from one of First Presbyterian's In-Touch members, please contact Deacon Colleen Dueñas (563-514-6396).

The Prayer Chain: Connects those who need prayer with those who commit to a ministry of prayer. Contact Mary Ann François (563-355-5292).

Printed Prayer Requests: Require permission from the person(s) in need of prayer before prayers are printed in the bulletin. The best way to assure a hospital visit or a prayer is to contact the church office directly (563-326-1691).

Prayer Shawls: Prayer shawls are available for you to give to those you know who are experiencing a challenge or joy. For your choosing, a variety of shawls are hanging on the coat rack near the main office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Visit the First Pres website to view the full calendar

www.fpcdavenport.org/calendar

Sunday, December 14 Nursery Open Worship Service Kirkwood Choir Manna & More Chamber Chorale Rehearsal Youth Group Scout Troop 7 Meeting	8:15 AM - 11:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:45 AM - 10:30 AM 10:35 AM - 11:30 AM 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	CE Building 3 rd Floor Sanctuary & Online CE Building 3 rd Floor Fellowship Hall Choir Room CE Building 3 rd Floor Gym
Monday, December 15 Pickle Ball Staff Meeting FPC Book Club (Between the Covers) Personnel Session Meeting	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Gym Von Maur Hall Parlor Von Maur Hall Von Maur Hall/Zoom
Tuesday, December 16 Caring Closet & Lunches	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CE Building 1st Floor
Wednesday, December 17 Pickle Ball Staff Christmas Party Bible Basics 201	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	Gym Off Site Zoom
Thursday, December 18 Sermon Talks Tabitha's Circle Clean Team TOPS Vesper Bells Rehearsal Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM 9:45 AM - 1:15 PM 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Von Maur Hall Fellowship Hall FPC Building Von Maur Hall Chapel Choir Room
Friday, December 19 Caring Closet	2:00 рм - 5:00 рм	CE Building 1st Floor
Saturday, December 20 Caring Closet Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CE Building 1st Floor Sanctuary

The **Staff Christmas Party** is Wednesday, December 17 - the church office will be closed from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM.

FYI, the church office will be closed for Christmas and New Years - December 25 through January 1.

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LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Manna and More - Today!

Celebrate Joy This Advent!

Jois us for a special Manna and More gathering following today's worship service! We'll come together for a cheerful time of **meal sharing, warm fellowship, and Advent reflection** centered on the radiant word "Joy."

Come enjoy delicious food, good company, and the bright hope that Joy brings as we journey toward Christmas. The menu will include waffles, sausage, a few pancakes, strawberry compote, toppings, fresh fruit, gluten-free choices and assorted beverages. Bring your stories, your laughter, and your Advent spirit—let's fill the room with celebration! We can't wait to share this joyful feast with you!

Christmas Poinsettias 2025

In the tradition of past Christmas seasons, we will brighten the Sanctuary with poinsettias given in memory or honor of loved ones. To be part of this wonderful tradition, please complete the Christmas Poinsettias 2025 form and drop it in the offering plate. You can also participate by going to FPC's website and clicking the "Donate Online" link or by contacting Kristine Olson in the church office.



The deadline for making a donation is **Monday, December 15 (tomorrow) by noon**.

Update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)

The APNC has been meeting regularly since being elected by the congregation. We received our training about the processes we must follow from our Presbytery liaison, Rev. Dr. Pam Saturnia, First Presbyterian Church, Muscatine. Since then, we have been working on the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). The MDP is the document that will tell a potential candidate who we are, describe the position and the type of person we are seeking. It is important to do this well – to take our time – to represent our truth.

The work of the congregation and the Strategic Discernment Team this past year has been a great help in completing the MDP. Once completed the MDP will be presented both to the FPC Session and the Commission on Ministry and Vitality of the Presbytery. Once approved, the position can be posted with the PC(USA). Our goal is to have the job posted in February.



Youth Ministry - Sponsor a Dinner

All FPC youth (and friends) in 6th - 12th grades are invited to join us for Youth Group. We will meet **most Sunday evenings** from **5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. Dinner will be served.

The Youth Group is looking for families or individuals to **sponsor** a dinner(s) for us on Sunday nights at 5pm. If you would like to donate money (suggested donation: \$50) for our Youth Group to buy pizza or would be willing to provide a meal (for approximately 15-20 youth and mentors) please reach out to Abby Schondelmeyer.



Donations? https://fpcdavenport.breezechms.com/give/online?fund_id=1965301

Questions? Please contact Abby Schondelmeyer: cefy@fpcdavenport.org.

MISSION &	SERVICE	
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Christmas Joy Offering



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

To make a donation, Scan the QR code or visit our website at

https://fpcdavenport.breezechms.com/give/online?fund_id=1965314

The FPC Caring Closet - Updated Requests

Caring Closet Request:

- Our shoppers at the FPC Caring Closet are **in need of winter items** especially **jackets and coats**. We appreciate all that you do for our neighbors!
- Hygiene products such as diapers, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, and feminine pads. The Dollar Tree provides a great variety. We also need towels and sheets of all sizes. Thank you for your continued support!

Holiday Closures for The Caring Closet: The Caring Closet will be closed for the Christmas break beginning December 23 through January 5.

Need a Ride? We're Building a Ride Team!

In recent weeks we've received several requests from different members for rides—to Sunday worship, medical appointments, the grocery store, etc. We'd love to form a small team of volunteer drivers to help members stay connected and cared for.

Ways to help (pick any):

- Sunday morning rides to church (one way or round-trip)
- Weekday appointments (as you're available)
- Quick errands/grocery runs for those who need a hand

If you're willing to be on the "Ride Team" list-even occasionally-please contact the church office at: office@fpcdavenport.org

Basic expectations: a valid driver's license, no major driving violations, and personal auto insurance as the church is not responsible for accidents. Thank you for helping our church be the hands and feet of Christone ride at a time!

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Women of Hope Bible Study

If you are interested in a Bible study with lots of discussion and interesting topics, Women of Hope meets the **second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 AM** in the church parlor. The theme is different every year and the study used is provided by Presbyterian Women. It links readers in a shared experience with ecumenical friends and partners and is the only Bible study created with Presbyterian women and our ecumenical siblings in mind.

This year's study is called "Let Justice Roll Down - God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation." It covers everything from environmental justice to water justice, climate change to intergenerational justice. No advance preparation is required. Anyone interested in this type of study is encouraged to contact the church office at office@fpcdavenport.org or 563-326-1691 x200. All are welcome!

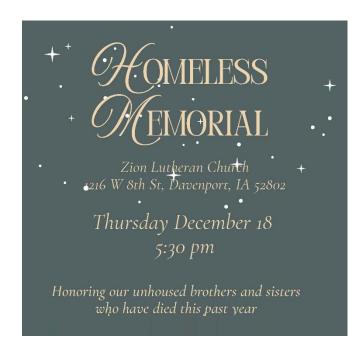
Bible Basics for December

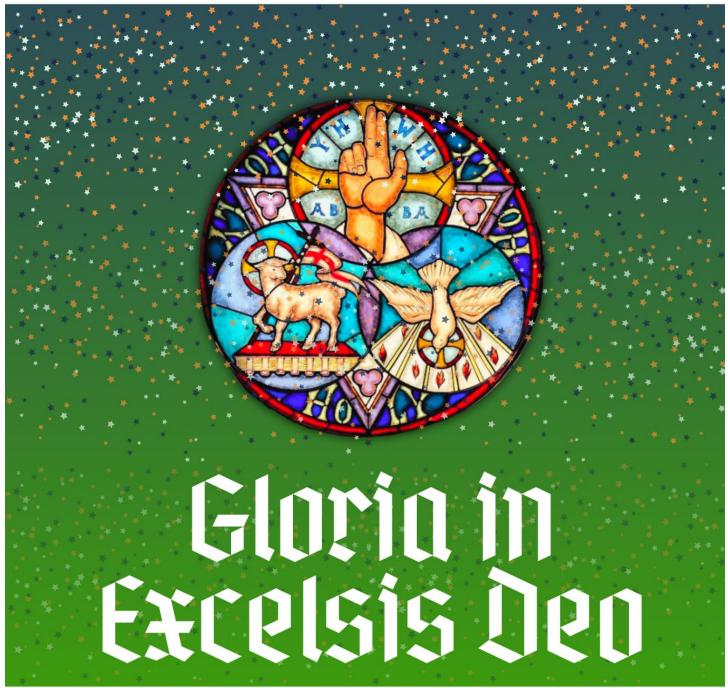
Join us on Wednesdays at 6:15PM on Zoom. In December, we will be watching and discussing videos on Christmas related topics. All are welcome. We will be in recess on December 24 and December 31.

Please contact Mark Jones for more information. (markandkarla75@gmail.com)
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88116875549?pwd=S5SbGSYHmyd1K9PpwHcroiUagPPkwj.1
Meeting ID: 881 1687 5549
Passcode: 630481

Sermon Talks w/ Pastor Kris

Sermon Talks is a midweek daytime Bible study led by Pastor Kris where participants explore the Scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday sermon. Through open discussion and shared reflection, the group engages deeply with the text—asking questions, making connections, and preparing hearts and minds to hear God's Word in worship. Sermon Talks is **offered every Thursday (unless otherwise stated) from 9:00 - 10:00 AM** in Von Maur Hall. A Zoom option is not available. All are welcome to join the conversation.





THE 2025 FPC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 21, 4PM

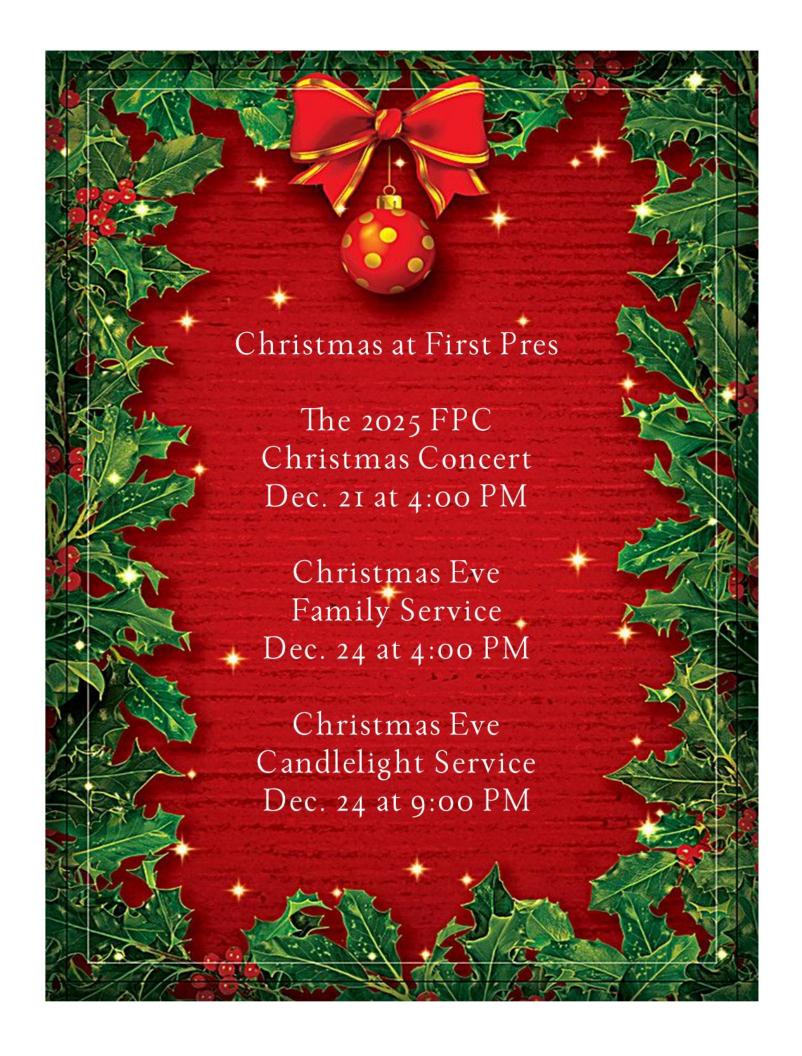
Featuring the Sanctuary Choir, Vesper Bells, Chamber Chorale, Quad City Youth Choir, orchestra, and organist Alex Gilson in beloved carols plus Giacomo Puccini's masterful and operatic *Messa di Gloria*.

We are partnering with the FPC Caring Closet and asking attendees to bring personal hygiene items to donate: shampoo, conditioner, wipes, toothpaste, deoderant, feminine products, etc.

Reserve your free, general admission ticket in advance by following the QR code:







FPC STAFF

First Presbyterian Church ◆ 1702 Iowa Street ◆ Davenport, Iowa 52803 ◆ Phone: 563-326-1691

Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Kris Schondelmeyer, Pastor/Head of Staff	Ext 230	schondelmeyer@fpcdavenport.org
Rev. Pat Halverson*, Parish Associate		
Marty Bowles-Edwards*, Co-Director of Christian Education		cefy@fpcdavenport.org
Abby Schondelmeyer* Co-Director of Christian Education		cefy@fpcdavenport.org
Kathy Knox*, Nursery Caregiver		
Deanna Herman*, Nursery Caregiver		
Matt Bishop, Director of Music & Arts	Ext 201	bishop@fpcdavenport.org
Alex Gilson, Principal Organist & Assistant Director of Music	Ext 223	gilson@fpcdavenport.org
Linda Bengfort*, Assistant Choral Director		
Kathy Middleton*, Assistant Choral Director for Children		
Jim Middleton*, Director of Office Administration		office@fpcdavenport.org
Diana Miller-Bur*, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	Ext 235	millerbur@fpcdavenport.org
Kristine Olson, Director of Financial and Business Administration	Ext 219	olson@fpcdavenport.org
Tammy Versluis*, Accounting Assistant		
Darren Long, Director of Building and Grounds	Ext 205	long@fpcdavenport.org
Chad Dean*, Custodian		
		* Part-time employee

^{*} Part-time employee

ELDERS AND DEACONS

Elders

Class of 2025 Dan Breinich Nancy Chapman Bonnie Johnson Nathan Kabel Zoe McCullum Julia Meyer Kristine Oswald Mark Ruebling Vicki Stegall	Class of 2026 Dianna Darland Denny Jorgenson Kathy Knox Cathy Pratscher-Woods Jed Steckel	Class of 2027 Dan Darland Craig Foster Paula Hartmann Sharon Simmonds Jay Williams Erin Yingling	Co-Clerks of Session Julia Meyer Mark Jones
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Deacons

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Colleen Dueñas (Vice Moderator)	Andy Bowles Edwards	Elizabeth Breinich
Terri Sheetz (Moderator)	Lois Boyer	Andrew Darland
Doug Wells	Connie Connolly	Steve Earp
-	John Gere	Sue Ervin
	Al Frohlich	Heidi Pedersen
	Bob Lehnherr	Mason Pedersen
	Amy Saskowski	Sherry Williams
	Sarah Soenksen	,

Katrina Williams